

As Arranged By Archie.

By Carson Willard.

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"Had trouble with sis?" Archie regarded Deering with a sympathetic gaze. Deering nodded. They were good chums, these two. A couple of years before Deering had talked Mrs. Shelby into taking Archie out of the Buster Brown suits he detested, and since then Archie had been Vance Deering's sworn ally.

But even Archie could not help much with Letty Shelby. At heart Letty loved Deering, but she was not to be easily won, and though Vance had proposed a score of times, she had turned aside the question without giving a decided negative.

Letty was only nineteen, and she had formed a theory that it would be foolish to marry early.

"I like you," she admitted to Vance, "but you see a girl who marries so young loses an awful lot of fun. None of the boys pays any attention to a young matron."

"If you really loved me," he reproached, "you would not care for their attentions."

"My dear Vance," she smiled, "unless I had some attention paid me, how could I learn to value your devotion? It is through contrasts that I shall learn to appreciate you best."

Deering gritted his teeth. In the face of such arguments he was powerless. Somehow Letty's way of quietly setting aside his protests was aggravating in the extreme. They could not even quarrel comfortably, for she had a way of quietly retreating when the argument grew too strong for her and throwing the blame upon him in a way that was maddening.

That was just what happened. She had swept from the room with an imperious air and a remark that she should be glad to see Mr. Deering again when he had a better command of his temper. That she was at the moment sobbing out her regret in the security of her own room was a thing he could not know.

He was preparing to let himself out when Archie strolled into the room in



"THREE MEN FIRED THEIR GUNS AT ME!"

blissful defiance of his bedtime. His sharp eyes quickly sensed the situation, and he sat down to talk it over with an odd assumption of elderly dignity that would have been amusing had Deering been less upset.

Archie had mixed more with his elders than with children of his own age and had acquired an odd faculty of observation. Now he swung his stocky legs to and fro from the highest chair he could find and regarded Deering with the impression of owl-like wisdom.

"You see," he explained, "Letty is old. I heard mother say so. When she gets mad the only way is to get her scared. Then she'll come around quick. The time she got mad at me for losing that invitation I set the dog on her and then grabbed him quick. She was frightened and thought I saved her, and she cried over me and gave me candy and said I was a dear."

"I don't believe that it would work in my case," said Deering, with a smile.

"If I fix it for you," offered Archie, "I'll make me one promise."

"What's that?" demanded Deering.

"You remember when Tommy Mulen's sister got married they made him wear white satin pants and hold up her train?"

"I remember the ornate Master Mulen," chuckled Deering as he recalled Archie's pointed remarks at the time of the wedding.

"If I fix it so you can marry Letty I don't want that sort of thing done to me."

"It's a promise," said Deering. "Shake hands."

Archie shook hands and slipped from the chair. "I guess you'd better be going now," he said hospitably. "You come round Thursday."

Archie solemnly superintended Vance's departure and then disappeared down cellar. It was nearly 11 when at last his sister remembered that he was supposed to be in bed at 7:30 and found him innocently reading in the dining room.

"I thought you was with Vance Deering," he remarked casually, "and I didn't like to disturb you."

"Mr. Deering is not coming here again," Letty said severely, but her eyes flicked.

But for all of that a box of flowers and a note preceded his arrival, and Thursday evening found him in the Shelby parlor and not at all happy over the fact. Letty wore her most impenetrable armor of reserve, and the slightest suggestion of reconciliation was met by a frigid silence that was most depressing.

Mr. Shelby had gone out of town, and Mrs. Shelby was calling on a neighbor. Archie was safely tucked away in bed, and they had the lower part of the house pretty much to them-

seives. Suddenly from the basement came the sound of pistol shots and frightened cries, followed an instant later by the appearance of Archie in pink and white pajamas and bare feet.

"I slipped downstairs to get a drink of milk," he yelled, "and three men fired their guns at me! Go down and kill them, Vance!"

A wink from Archie conveyed a deal of meaning, and Vance headed for the stairs leading to the cellar. Letty sat in the parlor with her fingers in her ears and could not possibly have heard Archie's whispered injunction.

"Billy Widener's pistol is at the head of the stairs," he explained as he pattered out into the dining room after Deering.

Feeling half ashamed of the subterfuge, Deering carried out Archie's obvious scheme. The house was some distance from the street, and his artistic simulation of a fight attracted no attention. Archie was doing a solemnly ecstatic dance in the dining room when Vance came back up the stairs.

"I saw 'em from the kitchen running across the back yard," Archie explained. "Now, stick to it."

Letty shrieked as Vance came into the dining room and threw herself sobbing upon his neck.

"I was sure they had killed you!" she cried. "It was awful, Vance!"

"Did you care so much?" he asked as his arms went around her. "Did you really care, little woman?"

"I didn't want you to be killed," she sobbed.

"And you do love me?" he insisted.

"Was that why you cared so much?"

"I guess it was," she confessed. "I do love you, Vance, but it wasn't good for you to tell me so."

"It was the best thing in the world," he insisted. "I've been two years trying to get you to confess, dear. Don't you think that my patience ought to be rewarded with yes?"

"Perhaps," she admitted. "Suppose they had killed you, Vance?"

"There was no danger," he laughed shamefacedly as he bent and kissed her, consoling himself with the reflection that all is fair in love and war.

"It was not half as bad as you think."

"Anyhow," she dimpled, "it showed me just how much I loved you."

"And that is all important," confirmed Vance.

The Benardites of Jamaica.

There is probably no other race in the world so enthusiastic over religion and who enter so heartily into its forms and ceremonies as the negroes. They seem to lose all thought of their surroundings and throw themselves body and soul into their own peculiar forms of worship.

In Jamaica there is a very large religious sect called, after their leader, Benardites. Four times a year the followers of Benard are baptized in the water of the river Mona. Hundreds of these religious enthusiasts meet on the banks of the river before daybreak, and as many as 600 have been dipped in a single morning. The price of a dipping is a shilling, so that at the rate of 600 a quarter the income to the leader and his church is a tidy little sum.

After the baptism the freshly cleansed and purified of sin form a line, and with gold embroidered banners and silken streamers waving above the long line of men and women they march, singing, to the church, which is situated a short distance back from the river. Hundreds of these negroes make up the long swaying and winding procession, which sings as it moves and eventually enters the church doors or distributes itself outside near windows and doors.—New York Herald.

Origin of "Hoodlum."

"Hoodlum," America's equivalent of the English word "hooligan," was coined at San Francisco very early in the nineteenth century, but did not become generally popular in the United States until about 1877, by which time all certainty as to its origin was lost. One version is that the leader of the San Francisco "larrikin" push was a man named Muldoon, whose name a newspaper writer ingeniously reversed to christen his gang "hoodlums," and a compositor's mistake of "h" for "m" did the rest. Another explanation is that "Huddle" "em" was the San Francisco rowdy's cry when the police appeared, and a third alludes to a curious feck or "hood" worn by an eccentric character which the young rowdies adopted as their uniform.

China's Priority.

Prior to the invention of not only gunpowder, but also of the art of printing, is attributed to the Chinese. According to the Chinese, the result of missionaries, printing was practiced in China nearly fifty years before the Christian era. Books in the Celestial empire were made out of slips of bamboo 500 years B. C.; in 150 A. D. paper was first made; by 745 books were bound into leaves, and in 900 printing was general in China.

Spiteful.

Miss Elderleigh—Jane Jones is a mean, spiteful old cat. Miss Younger—What's the matter? Miss Elderleigh—I told her that my family came over in the Mayflower and she asked me if I was seasick.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Freak of Lightning.

A strange freak of lightning is reported from a town in New York. It found its way into the butler's pantry of a certain residence, on a shelf of which were some brilliantly decorated royal Dresden plates. The lightning made a slight discoloration about the edges of several of the plates, but on the wall it made several photographs of them, with the decorations reproduced, colors and all. Here, in an instant, the electric fluid did what men have been trying in vain to do for many years—it took a photograph in colors.

What Sub Rosa Means.

From time immemorial the rose has been considered the symbol of silence; hence the phrase "sub rosa" (under the rose)—that is to say, between ourselves. Certain Italian writers claim that the expression arose from the circumstance of the pope's presenting consecrated roses, which were placed over the confessional to denote secrecy.

WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]

Major Spencer Cosby, the engineer officer in charge of the improvement of the Potomac river, has made a special report to General Mackenzie in regard to the Highway bridge across the Potomac, which was built at a cost of \$1,190,000, in which he says that all items in connection with the bridge and its approaches are practically completed with the exception of the work remaining to be done by the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway company. It is recommended that the bridge and its approaches from the north abutment to the Washington channel bridge to the southern limit of the Virginia approach be transferred to the charge of the superintendent of public buildings and grounds as part of the park system.

Traffic Over the Potomac.

During the fiscal year ended June 30 last the draw of the bridge was opened 5,138 times for the passage of 5,855 vessels, or an average of approximately 14.08 openings per day. The average cost for current was \$9.99 cents per opening. Major Cosby says that the machinery of the draw span continues to operate satisfactorily, and but few repairs have been necessary. Since Dec. 15 last all the traffic formerly using the old Long bridge has crossed the river by way of the Highway bridge and its approaches.

Reclaiming Mud Flats.

The riprap stonework along the Eastern branch flats has been completed. The retaining wall, behind which the liquid mud from the bottom of the Eastern branch channel will be pumped and allowed to settle, extends from a point, a short distance from the south end of the Anacostia river bridge, to the fill made three or four years ago in front of the grounds of the Government Hospital for the Insane and will add a hundred or more acres to the land on the south bank of the Eastern branch.

Public Playgrounds.

Two new public playgrounds for the benefit of the youngsters of the city who have no opportunities to play in the country have been added to the list. The money raised by the white and colored school song festivals and the school collections is largely responsible for the opening of one. From these two sources the Washington Playground association announces it has received a total of \$2,077, which is to be devoted entirely to school playgrounds.

Other Grounds Planned.

Dr. Henry S. Curtis, supervisor of the playgrounds, is planning to open other new grounds as soon as funds are in hand and the arrangements can be completed. It is also his intention to keep the school playgrounds open after school hours and on Saturdays next fall, which will be an innovation believed to be much needed. An effort is being made by the association to raise at least \$5,000 to defray the expenses of the grounds now in use for the present fiscal year. This amount, it is stated, will be absolutely necessary in view of the fact that Congress cut its appropriation for this object in half at the last session.

White House in New Dress.

The White House will soon appear in a new dress of paint. A small army of painters are busy on the finishing touches. When the task is finished the historic abode of the president will seem to the eye more magnificent and stately.

For more than fifteen years the White House has not undergone such a thorough painting as is now under way. Every inch of the exterior is being thoroughly burned.

Old Paint Burned Off.

The work is necessarily slow and difficult. The painters find that the old paint averages about one-eighth of an inch in thickness. In previous years it has been customary to merely give the White House a spick and span look with a few coats of paint. The process of burning off the old paint will give the mansion a more marble-like effect when the repainting is finished.

Home For Sanitarium.

The National Benevolent Sanitarium association, a new corporation organized for the purpose of affording adequate medical attention for its members, has purchased the Chapin apartments at a cost of \$100,000.

The Chapin is located at 1415 Chapin street, contains forty apartments and about 100 rooms, and has a self-supplying electric plant in the basement. It is a five-story structure.

Altgether the building is regarded as a model for the purposes of an association unique in Washington. As stated in the charter, the association's objects are, first, to afford within its own building adequate medical and surgical attention and to supply medicine, nursing and diet for its members when sick; second, to afford for its members comfortable clubrooms and homelike surroundings, and, third, to encourage economy, thrift, sobriety and self-reliance. Those desiring to become members of this benevolent association may do so by paying monthly dues.

Qualification of Members.

In addition to the payment of these dues, members must be of good moral character and between the ages of three and fifty-five years, free from acute or chronic ailments which might disqualify them from active duties and agree to conform to the rules laid down by the association.

The building will immediately be remodeled as a sanitarium. Clinics, laboratories and consultation rooms will be constructed, and the entire building will be ready for the occupation of the association by Oct. 1.

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EXPERT DISCUSSES MORTGAGE TAXATION

"A tax on mortgages, being a special tax upon one form of investment, is an indirect tax, and the result of a release of mortgages from taxation will be a lowering in the rate of interest on loanable capital. The man who buys property on credit (let us assume for purpose of illustration the case of a farm purchased with borrowed money) has no reason to complain if the capital which he borrows is not taxed to the holder of the instruments that represent the loan. It is true his property will be assessed to its full value regardless of the debt resting upon it, but the first effect of such an adjustment will be to reduce the price he must pay for his land; that is to say, the tax results in depressing the value of land by an amount equal to its capitalization. The second effect is that he will be obliged to pay less for the money borrowed with which to purchase the land. It is doubtless true that up to a certain point such other tendencies will counteract each other, for the lower the rate of interest the higher will be the value of land. But the balance will most certainly be to the advantage of the man who desires to buy land with borrowed capital; for the rate which fixes the price of land is the commercial or industrial rate, while the rate that must be paid for the money borrowed is the current rate on loanable capital. Not only is that latter lower in itself than the market rate on industrial capital, but it will be yet further depressed by the exemption of such capital from taxation. It is lack of confidence in commercial laws by which values are determined and to which abstracts are adjusted that incites to a constant effort on the part of legislators to lay hold of loanable capital for the purpose of taxation. Experience shows this to be impossible and analysis shows it to be unnecessary. There is no reason in the nature of the case, due allowance being made for the peculiar industrial qualities of government bonds, why the farmer should pay more for money than the government. The farmer's true interest lies in removing every element of uncertainty that surrounds a loan, and one of the is the threat of the law that mortgages should be taxed."

Henry C. Adams, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Michigan and Statistician for Interstate Commerce Commission.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Complaint Because It Does Not Pay Its Share of Taxes.

There has been much complaint of late because personal property, especially intangible property, does not pay its fair share of public taxes. It is said the homes of working men pay more in proportion to value than any other kind of property. The criticism is not coned to any section of the country. The conditions that existed were in some respects unprecedented. It is doubtful if there was ever a time in the history of this nation when the rate of interest on the best securities was so low as at that time. This commonwealth could borrow money at the rate of about two per cent and the price of unquestioned securities was so high that they yielded the investor but little more than three per cent on his investment. In such cases the payment of a tax of 20 on \$1,000, which is but little above the average rate of late in this city, would reduce the net income on such investments to a very small figure. It is not strange that those conservative capitalists who never take risks by investing in securities that are not gilt edged forgot to inform the assessors of the amount of their holdings and the practice of concealing intangible property became very popular and is likely to continue so. The rates of interest have advanced within the last three years and the last legislature deemed it wise to exempt from taxation the bonds of the state issued after Jan. 1, 1900, thus following the precedent established by the United States soon after the commencement of the civil war of exempting government bonds from state, county and municipal taxation.

Some complaint has been made by real estate owners because the rate of taxation of savings bank deposits is so low, but it is doubtful if the public realizes as much in proportion from the taxation of intangible property held by private investors as from the tax on savings bank deposits.

The laws of the commonwealth, as interpreted by the supreme court in recent decisions, make it easy for a citizen to claim a residence where he spends very little of his time, and capitalists naturally seek those municipalities where the lowest tax rates prevail and where assessors are most obliging.

Assessors are aware that if they resort to extreme measures there will be changes in the legal residence of some tax payers and a consequent shrinkage in the valuation list. There is undoubtedly much undeserved criticism bestowed on this class of public officers by people who do not appreciate the difficulties in the way of strictly equitable taxation.—Fitchburg (Mass.) Sentinel.

The only just way to treat intangible property is either to exempt it, or to levy a small tax upon it, say, one-tenth of one per cent, in view of the fact that when in the state it receives a certain police protection and in some cases, although not in all, the courts of Ohio are open for the enforcement of rights under it.

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